

The Alexandria Gazette

MONDAY EVENING, NOV. 1.

On Wednesday night last, a captain of the 91st Pennsylvania Volunteers was arrested at a gambling house in Washington, and ordered to report to the Provost Marshal. Another captain was found at a saloon. He tried to pass himself off as a citizen, but his captain's badge betrayed him. He refused to give his name or show his papers, and consequently was taken to the Central Guardhouse, where he deposited \$100 as security for his appearance next morning.

SMALL POX.—This terrible disease is prevalent in this place, especially among the "contrabands," and a new hospital for the accommodation of the contrabands has just been put up on the side of the lane leading to the burial grounds, south of the depot of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad. The deaths from the disease, among the negroes, are quite numerous, and great precaution should be taken to prevent its spread.

Gov. Pierpont has issued a Proclamation for a meeting of the Legislature at Wheeling, on Thursday, the 4th day of this month, for the purpose "of re-districting the state and for legislation upon other subjects of vital importance."

The statement that Custis Grymes and T. J. Grymes were arrested whilst crossing the Potomac in a boat, is entirely incorrect. They were both taken prisoners whilst they were at their own homes.

Hon. F. P. Blair, jr., of Missouri, has resigned his seat in Congress, for the purpose of taking command of a brigade at Helena, Arkansas.

Ohio is the greatest wool growing State, New York and Pennsylvania next, Michigan ranks fourth. New Jersey raises more potatoes than any other State by two to one.

We learn that there are no passes required now for crossing the ferry at this place, to and from Maryland.

Gen. Burnside visited Washington on Saturday, and spent the forenoon in consultation with President Lincoln and Gen. Halleck.

A fire broke out in Washington last night, at the corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Third street. Four houses were destroyed.

Congress commenced its session to-day in Washington.

LOCAL.—Dr. Z. Howe Ripley has been sent to jail, by order of Col. Tait, for disobeying an order to vacate the house of Mr. Daniel F. Hooe, on King street, of which he had taken possession.—The weather is cloudy, with some showers, but not cold.—The places of public worship open in this place were well attended yesterday.

The U. S. Navy Department has received information that the "290" was expected in the vicinity of the Azores early in November. She was to receive her supplies, ammunition and seamen from the steamer Bahama. The Turkish steamer Shangehast has taken dispatches to that place for Capt. Semmes. Several U. S. vessels are in that neighborhood.

Later from New Orleans.

NEW YORK, Nov. 29.—The steamer Cambria arrived at this port this evening, from New Orleans on the 20th.

A powerful squadron was concentrating in the Mississippi. There were already more vessels at New Orleans than there has been at any time since its capture.

A large number of the river boats have been armed.

Great activity prevailed in military circles, preparatory to offensive war movements. A general inspection of arms and men was about to take place.

Col. Nickerson, of Massachusetts, has been appointed to command the brigade late under Col. Dudley, who has been appointed to a position on Gen. Butler's staff.

The guerillas still infest the river banks, both above and below the city.

One of the naval vessels had been fired into and returned the shot with grape and canister, but the thick brushwood enabled the assailants to escape.

On the 31st ult., as the steamer Dan was towing a U. S. gunboat from Sabine Pass to the city, she was assailed by a volley from a body of troops who were concealed in a mill.—The U. S. forces opened fire on the mill and town, destroying the mill and several residences, and setting fire to other buildings. The fire was extinguished.

No vessel now leaves the city unless it is well armed.

Gen. Butler is about to place overseers on the confiscated plantations, in order to save the cotton and sugar. The new cotton crop was coming in quite freely.

Gen. Butler has permitted the resumption of the National Advocate, after explanations from Jacob Barker, showing that he had no intention to aid the Confederates.

There were still some cases of yellow fever at Houston, Texas, on the 3d, but the disease was not epidemic.

The fever was still prevailing at Matagorda, Indianola and Lavaca, and deaths were occurring in each city therefrom.

Excitement continues regarding the investigation into the Quartermaster's Department. The Court of Inquiry examining their affairs commenced in Baltimore on Saturday. Contractors complain much about being unceremoniously taken into custody. The general tenor of the testimony thus far exonerates Colonel Belger. Contractors talk of calling a public meeting to make known their grievances.

Nothing from Old Point, except that grand Thanksgiving arrangements were made by the soldiers in that region. No Southern papers have been received.

Old Burk, a guerilla, was killed a few days ago at Shepherdstown.

Major Thomas O'Neill, of the New England Irish Brigade, died at Georgetown, on Saturday.

A general movement of the U. S. armies in the Southwest, is now progressing. Tremendous efforts will be made to clear the Mississippi valley of all armed Confederates, and take possession of the entire territory west of the mountains, from Columbus to the Gulf.

Commodore Farragut, with a fleet is ascending the Mississippi river, to co-operate with Commodore Porter. The last news from New Orleans says that everything is ready for such an advance.

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT LINCOLN.—Cincinnati, Nov. 28.—The Memphis Bulletin, of a late date, announces the arrival of Col. B. D. Nabers, and says that while in Washington, he was favored by the Hon. Emerson Etheridge with a copy of the following letter, given by President Lincoln to Thos. E. Smith, Esq., of Bolivar, in Tennessee.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, Oct. 21, 1862.—Major General Grant, Governor Johnson, and all having Military, Naval and Civil authority under the United States within the State of Tennessee:—

The beaver of this, Thomas R. Smith, a citizen of Tennessee, goes to that State, seeking to have such of the people thereof as desire to avoid the unsatisfactory prospect before them, and to have peace again upon the old terms under the Constitution of the United States, to manifest such desire by elections of members to Congress by the United States particularly, and perhaps a Legislature, State officers and a United States Senator, friendly to their object. I shall be glad for you and each of you to aid him, and all others acting for this object, as much as possible. In all available ways give the people a chance to express their wishes at these elections. Follow law and forms of law as far as convenient; but at all events get the expression of the largest number of the people possible. All see how much action will connect with and effect the proclamation of September 22d. Of course the men elected should be gentlemen of character, willing to swear to support the Constitution as of old, and known to be above reasonable suspicion of duplicity.

Yours, very respectfully,

(Signed) A. LINCOLN.

MR. JAMES M. NIXON AND HIS "GREAT SHOW."—The gentleman whose name prefaces this paragraph, we expect, is identified with all the enterprises in equestrianism that have been marked in this country for years. All his efforts have been triumphs, and his movements successes. He has now in contemplation, the presentation of a series of entertainments that we anticipate will suit the tastes of the people of Alexandria and command the patronage, and meet the approval of those who are "strangers in our midst." His Equestrian School and Classic Gymnasium is a different exhibition from a Circus, although it does present it merits, void of those associations that sometimes render such displays objectionable. Persons, of refinement, high tone, and exquisite taste can attend Mr. Nixon's exhibitions without sacrificing any sense of decency. We understand, upon official authority, that the Equestrian School will be opened to the public on next Thursday afternoon.

The Philadelphia Inquirer has information from Richmond, furnished by deserters &c., professing to give a gloomy account of affairs in the South, but saying that there "are now from twenty to twenty-five thousand men in the works around Richmond, and eighty thousand north of these including Lee and Jackson's force. They have plenty of raw provisions, and millions of pounds of beef, pork and flour are being accumulated in Richmond.—Vessels are running the blockade every week with clothing, but the army is still suffering for clothing."

As Acting Brig. Gen. Wright, of the 15th Conn, was passing over the Long Bridge yesterday afternoon, in an ambulance, in company with Col. Brown, of 12th Rhode Island, the approach of a train of cars caused the horses to take fright, rendering them altogether unmanageable. The ambulance was upset, and those within thrown out. Gen. Wright was injured quite seriously.